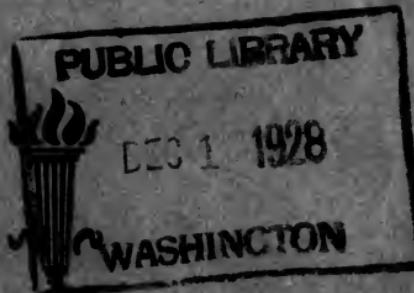


# REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

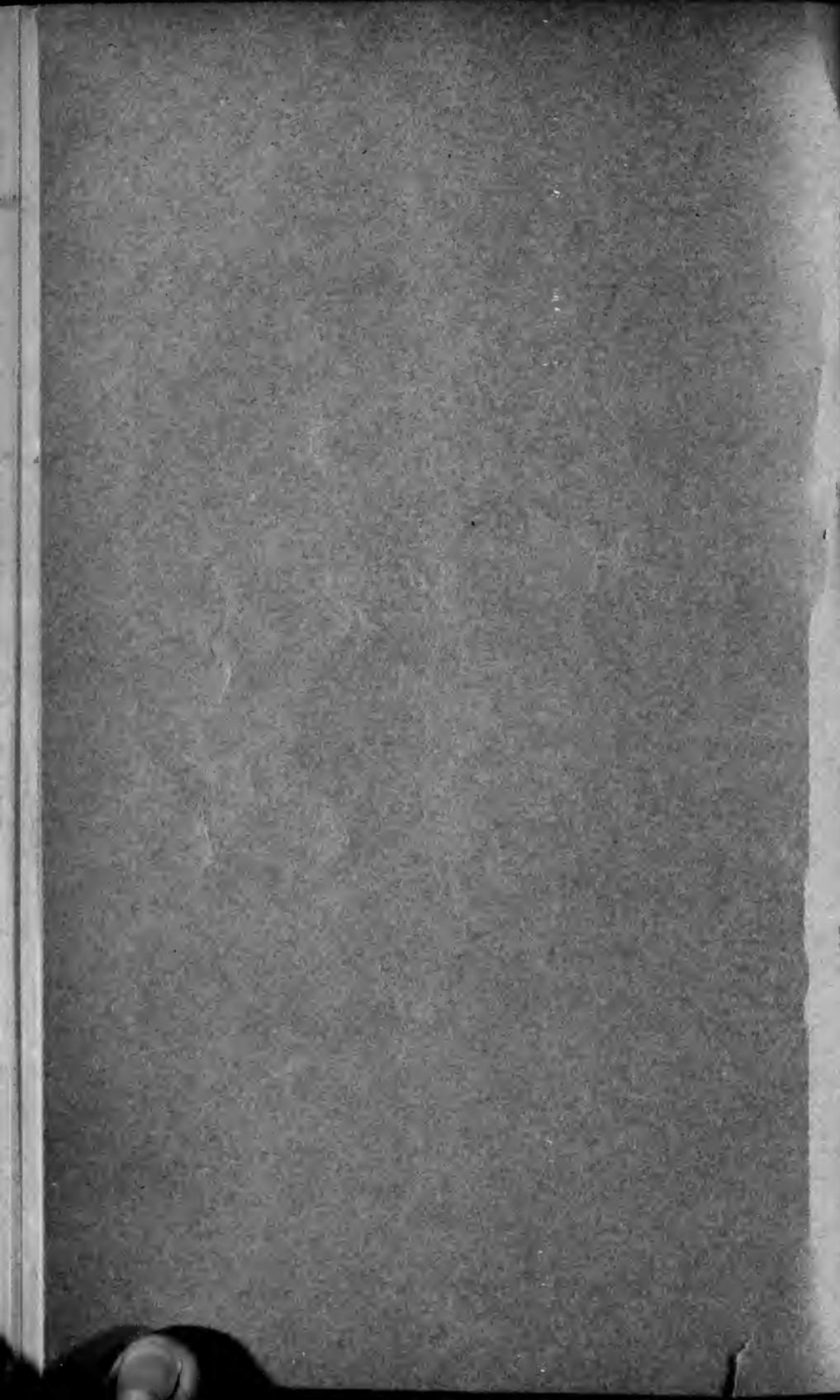
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FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDED JUNE 30, 1928



UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON  
1928



REPORT OF  
THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE  
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# REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, July 1, 1928.*

*To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:*

The following report, covering the operations of the fire department during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1928, is submitted:

## ALARMS OF FIRE

During the year alarms of fire numbered 3,704, an increase of 616 over the preceding year. Box alarms numbered 1,516, an increase of 69; local alarms received numbered 2,188, an increase of 547. Twenty-five fires occurred which required the sounding of additional alarms, an increase of seven over the number experienced during the fiscal year of 1927.

## FALSE ALARMS

There were 300 false alarms received during the year, 79 less than the preceding year. Thorough investigation in these cases was made by the police department and the fire marshal's office, but in no instance could sufficient evidence be procured to warrant an arrest.

## INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES

There were 24 fires of suspicious nature and 11 of undoubtedly incendiary nature during the year. One man was committed to an institution for unsound mind following conviction for the starting of five fires on the night of January 16, 1928. In several other instances persons were held by the police department for investigation and two cases are now pending for grand-jury action.

## FIRE LOSS

The estimated loss for the year ending June 30, 1928, is \$1,101,164. Of this amount, \$472,125 is for damage in three fires to the United States Army air station, Anacostia, D. C., and if this amount is deducted from the total it will make the loss for the District of Columbia \$629,039, or \$46,340 less than last year, which was \$675,399.

## FIRE PREVENTION

During the year, 64,205 inspection visits were made by members of the fire marshal's force, 1,806 of which were investigations of complaints.

Battalion chief engineers detailed members of fire companies for the purpose of inspecting hotels, apartment houses, asylums, public and private schools, etc., members of this group making 133,891 inspections.

At present the office of the fire marshal is undermanned. An additional number of inspectors should be allowed in order that more frequent visits to mercantile establishments and other locations presenting fire hazards may be made. Oil-burning equipment supervision alone now requires the services of two men. Other potentially hazardous occupancies are increasing and need more frequent inspection than we are now prepared to make.

#### DISCIPLINE

During the year discipline was uniformly excellent, there being 119 cases of minor disciplinary action and 3 dismissals for infractions of the rules and regulations.

#### PENSIONS .

Mrs. Bessie L. Stout, widow of the late Pvt. H. L. Stout, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month for her personal use and \$10 per month for the use of her minor child, effective July 12, 1927.

Mrs. Jennie B. Gallahan, widow of the late Lieut. S. L. Gallahan, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month for her personal use and \$10 per month for the use of each of her two children, effective July 27, 1927.

Capt. C. E. Gibson was retired on September 10, 1927, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Pvt. Theodore Davis was retired on September 10, 1927, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. H. W. Fletcher was retired on September 15, 1927, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. H. E. Kane was retired on December 15, 1927, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Capt. W. J. Garner was retired on February 16, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Capt. William Nally was retired on February 16, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Pvt. Daniel O'Connor was retired on February 16, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Lieut. W. G. Parater was retired on March 1, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$97.92 per month.

Pvt. Orville Fraser was retired on March 1, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Mrs. Florence E. Brown, widow of the late Pvt. G. C. Brown, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month for her personal use and \$10 per month for the use of her minor child, effective February 3, 1928.

Mrs. Mary M. Robinson, widow of the late Thomas M. Robinson, a pensioner of the department, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective February 7, 1928.

Mrs. Anna F. Carroll, widow of the late Pvt. L. M. Carroll, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective February 8, 1928.

Mrs. Georgia M. Hollidge, widow of the late Sergt. H. W. Hollidge, a pensioner of the department, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective March 18, 1928.

Mrs. Emma W. Wright, widow of the late Capt. H. W. Wright, a pensioner of the department, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective March 21, 1928.

Pvt. H. P. Hecht was retired on April 30, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Mrs. Mary A. Waters, widow of the late Lieut. E. C. Waters, was granted relief in the sum of \$60 per month for her personal use and \$10 per month for the use of her minor child, effective April 18, 1928.

Mrs. A. V. Clements, widow of the late F. B. Clements, a pensioner of the department, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective April 24, 1928.

Pvt. H. G. Suthard was retired on May 15, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. J. E. Webb was retired on June 1, 1928, and granted relief in the amount of \$79.17 per month.

#### DEATHS

The decease of the following officers, members, and pensioners is reported with regret:

Lieut. S. L. Gallahan, on July 26, 1927.

Lieut. E. C. Waters, on April 17, 1928.

Pvt. G. C. Brown, on January 31, 1928.

Pvt. L. M. Carroll, on February 4, 1928.

Pensioner Thomas M. Robinson, on January 28, 1928.

Pensioner H. W. Hollidge, on March 17, 1928.

Pensioner H. W. Wright, on March 20, 1928.

Pensioner F. B. Clements, on April 23, 1928.

#### NEW HOUSES

The proposed new engine house, to have been built on lot No. 802, square No. 2698, as purchased by the commissioners on June 17, 1927, has been delayed due to the necessity for a change of site. The new location designated by Congress is at Sixteenth Street and Colorado Avenue NW., on property owned by the United States. Plans for the house are being prepared by the office of the municipal architect, and it is expected that the new structure will be placed in service some time during the present fiscal year. Men and apparatus have been appropriated for.

#### RESCUE SQUAD

Rescue Squad No. 1 of the fire department, placed in service on January 20, 1925, continued to demonstrate its efficiency during the year. Officers and members of the squad responded to 187 local alarms, 279 box alarms, and to 5 special alarms of fire.

The apparatus was used as an ambulance in removing ill and injured persons to the hospital upon 13 occasions.

The squad rendered first aid for incised wounds fourteen times, for burns nine times, for drowning three times, for cave-ins five times, for gas poisoning eighty-three times. Artificial respiration was administered to patients on 35 occasions.

Gas masks were used to search and ventilate buildings during fires on nine occasions. The crew of the squad, at nine fires, was able to enter smoke and gas filled buildings by use of the gas masks, where other members of the department could not have existed. The squad also used the masks on 15 occasions to enter buildings for the stopping of gas and ammonia line leaks.

Life belts and life lines were used in rescue work six times.

Lights were generated from the apparatus to illuminate the interior and exterior of buildings on 5 occasions, a total of 12 hours.

Rescue squad No. 2 (engine company No. 11) placed in service on June 18, 1927, was given regular running district on November 11, 1927.

This squad has demonstrated its efficiency since being placed in service, responding to 35 local alarms.

On three occasions persons that were ill or injured were removed to the hospital in the apparatus.

Members of the squad rendered first aid for burns four times, overcome by smoke twice, overcome by ammonia fumes once, gas poisoning eighteen times, drowning three times, one cave-in in which six men were taken out and cared for, incised wounds four times. Artificial respiration was administered to patients on 14 occasions.

Gas masks were used for searching and ventilating and for entry into smoke and gas filled buildings upon 10 occasions and to stop leaks in ammonia and gas lines six times.

While the foregoing does not cover all of the many duties of the squads, it gives some idea of the variety of work they are called upon to perform.

#### NEW APPARATUS

Eleven new pieces of apparatus were added to the department, as follows: 3 triple-combination pumping engines, 2 combination hose wagons, 2 aerial-ladder trucks, 4 chief's cars.

#### SALARIES

The salaries now paid officers and members of the department are not commensurate with the duties and responsibilities incident to their daily work, and there exists a real need for a readjustment of compensation rates. Those paid officers particularly fail to provide salary increases in promotions sufficient to compensate for the increased responsibilities incident to advancement in rank. The details of a fireman's vocation in the District of Columbia differ in no material way from those of other large cities of the United States, and rates of pay here should be substantially similar to those of our larger municipalities. At the present time they fail in this regard.

It is my sincere hope that Congress will recognize the merits of the case and will, during the coming session, enact a law looking toward a correction of the present conditions.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for other improvements in the service, involving the necessity of additional funds, have been forwarded to the commissioners in the form of estimates for the fiscal year 1930.

#### CONCLUSION

The commissioners have accorded me their usual support and aid in the administration of the department. To them I tender my sincere thanks and appreciation.

The officers and members of the organization have performed their duties willingly and efficiently, and the reputation they have made and maintained is sufficient evidence of their capability. I thank them for their loyal services.

GEO. S. WATSON, *Chief Engineer.*

JULY 1, 1928.

To CHIEF ENGINEER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

I submit the following report of activities of the fire marshal's office for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1928:

During the year 3,704 alarms of fire were received and investigated by this office. This is an increase of 616 as compared with the number received during the preceding year. Of these 3,704 alarms 1,516 were box alarms, an increase of 69 box alarms compared with the number received during the preceding year; 2,188 were local alarms, or telephone calls, an increase of 547 as compared with the number received during the preceding year.

The loss caused by the 1,516 box alarms is estimated at \$1,036,041, part of which is covered by insurance of \$18,227,335. The loss caused by the 2,188 local alarms is estimated at \$65,123, part of which is covered by insurance of \$22,596,990. The total loss for the fiscal year is estimated at \$1,101,164, a fraction over 2.69 per cent of the total insurance of \$40,824,325.

During the year 25 fires occurred for which additional alarms of fire were received. They were as follows:

July 12, 1927, box 8113, at 4.31 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 4.36 p. m., for fire in the 2-story brick Arcade Market, located at 3200-3216 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	\$3, 500
Sept. 28, 1927, box 2113, at 12.33 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 12.45 a. m., for fire in two 1-story brick buildings used as auto sales-rooms and auto-top factory, located at 1821 and 1823 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	5, 250
Oct. 17, 1927, box 7146, at 1.29 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 1.35 a. m., for fire in seven 2-story brick dwellings and rear porches, 1803-1811 Thirty-seventh Street NW., and 3629 and 3635 S Street NW.; estimated loss-----	16, 800
Oct. 19, 1927, box 632, at 7.19 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 7.39 p. m., for fire in nine 2-story frame dwellings located at 120 to 136 Seventh Street NE.; estimated loss-----	6, 800
Nov. 20, 1927, box 641, at 1.31 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 1.36 a. m., then by a third alarm at 1.54 a. m., for fire in the 4-story brick St. Aloysius clubhouse, located at 47 I Street NW.; estimated loss-----	2, 600

Dec. 1, 1927, box 826, at 10.51 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 11.01 a. m., for fire in two 3-story brick flats located at 329 and 331 T Street NW.; estimated loss-----	\$775
Dec. 2, 1927, box 8148, at 6.49 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 6.51 a. m. and by a third alarm at 6.53 a. m., for fire in the 4-story brick Octavio Apartments, 1669 Columbia Road NW.; estimated loss-----	6, 825
Dec. 18, 1927, box 243, at 10.25 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 10.34 p. m., for fire in a 3-story brick rooming house, 1311 Corcoran Street NW.; estimated loss-----	1, 400
Dec. 26, 1927, box 847, at 4.31 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 4.37 a. m. and by a fifth alarm at 4.42 a. m., for fire in the 5-story brick Kensington Apartments, 2501 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	23, 000
Dec. 27, 1927, box 936, at 10.55 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 11.05 a. m., for fire in a large 1-story sheet-metal warehouse, United States Army Air Service, Bolling Field, Anacostia, D. C.; estimated loss-----	434, 000
Jan. 8, 1928, box 624, at 3.12 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 3.23 p. m., for fire in the 4-story brick old building of the Government Printing Office, North Capitol and H Streets NW.; estimated loss-----	11, 000
Jan. 10, 1928, box 126, at 5.21 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 5.27 p. m., for fire in the 4-story brick auto-accessories store, 430-432 Ninth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	1, 825
Jan. 16, 1928, box 191, at 10.41 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 10.54 p. m., by a third alarm at 11.01 p. m., by a fourth alarm at 12.06 a. m., then by a fifth alarm at 12.35 a. m., for fire in Woolworth's 5 and 10 cent store, 923 and 925 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss-----	39, 650
Jan. 17, 1928, box 152, at 12.32 a. m., followed by second alarm at 12.37 a. m., for fire in three 2-story brick commission houses, 204, 206, 208 Tenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	6, 475
Jan. 17, 1928, box 647, at 1.54 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 2.02 a. m., and by a fourth alarm at 2.08 a. m., for fire in a 2-story brick feed store, 54-58 H Street NE.; estimated loss-----	19, 000
Jan. 17, 1928, box 664, at 3.37 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 3.40 a. m., and by a third alarm at 3.41 a. m., for fire in a 3-story brick vacant warehouse, 1530 Eckington Place NE.; estimated loss-----	500
Jan. 17, 1928, box 89, at 5.11 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 5.18 a. m., by a third alarm at 5.29 a. m., and by a fourth alarm at 5.51 a. m., for fire in a 2-story brick saw and planing mill, rear 1319 W Street NW.; estimated loss-----	23, 530
Jan. 25, 1928, box 936, at 9.43 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 10 p. m., for fire in a 1-story frame office, locker, and storage building, United States Army air station, Bolling Field, Anacostia, D. C.; estimated loss-----	32, 425
Jan. 29, 1928, box 618, at 8.25 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 8.35 a. m., for fire in a 3-story brick apartment house located at 641 Maryland Avenue NE.; estimated loss-----	6, 400
Mar. 18, 1928, box 25, at 6.32 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 6.37 a. m., for fire in a 3-story brick flat, 607 New York Avenue, NW.; estimated loss-----	825
Apr. 14, 1928, box 364, at 3.10 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 3.14 a. m., for fire in a 4-story brick rooming house, 1912 G Street NW.; estimated loss-----	1, 000
Apr. 19, 1928, box 416, at 8.42 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 8.44 p. m., by a third alarm at 8.46 p. m., by a fourth alarm at 8.50 p. m., and by a fifth alarm at 8.57 p. m., for fire in Johnson & Wimsatt's lumber yard, Water Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets SW.; estimated loss-----	126, 272
Apr. 26, 1928, box 293, at 11.31 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 11.36 a. m., and by a third alarm at 11.43 a. m., for fire in a 3-story brick building occupied as stores and office building, northeast corner Eleventh and U Streets NW.; estimated loss-----	7, 000
May 6, 1928, box 625, at 11.17 p. m., followed by a second alarm at 11.21 p. m., by a third alarm at 11.27 p. m., and by a fourth alarm at 11.45 p. m., for fire in 4-story brick apartments, 10 Florida Avenue NW.; estimated loss-----	3, 875

June 28, 1928, box 123, at 5.30 a. m., followed by a second alarm at 5.35 a. m., for fire in a 3-story brick warehouse located in rear 623-625 G Street NW; estimated loss-----	\$8, 543
It will be noted that 16 of the foregoing fires involved a loss each of \$5,000 or more. In addition to these 16 fires, 8 other fires occurred in the District of Columbia during the year, involving a loss each of \$5,000 or more, for which only single alarms were sounded. They were as follows:	
Aug. 8, 1927, box 673, at 9.53 p. m., for fire in a 2-story frame dwelling located at 1004 Farragut Street NE; estimated loss-----	\$8, 500
Aug. 14, 1927, box 518, at 2.39 p. m., for fire in a 2-story brick dry goods store, 533 Eighth Street SE; estimated loss-----	5, 500
Oct. 16, 1927, No. 3 engine company on local for fire in a railroad coach in Union Station; estimated loss-----	6, 000
Dec. 31, 1927, box 7144, at 2.01 a. m., for fire in a 1-story brick machine and carpenter shop located at Connecticut Avenue and Van Ness Street NW; estimated loss-----	10, 300
Jan. 29, 1928, box 621, at 11.59 a. m., for fire in a 2-story brick hardware store, 903 H Street NE; estimated loss-----	7, 000
Feb. 19, 1928, box 531, at 1.45 a. m., for fire in a sand dredge, First Street and Potomac Avenue SE; estimated loss-----	10, 000
Mar. 6, 1928, box 936, at 8.49 p. m., for fire in a 1-story frame building, United States Army air station, Bolling Field, Anacostia, D. C.; estimated loss-----	5, 700
June 3, 1928, box 821, at 3.42 p. m., for fire in a 2-story brick dry goods store, 3503 Georgia Avenue NW; estimated loss-----	5, 756
Total for the foregoing 33 fires-----	848, 026
Loss for the remaining 3,671 alarms for fire-----	253, 138
Total loss for the year-----	1, 101, 164

## FIRE LOSS COMPARISON

The loss for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928, when compared with the loss for the preceding year, shows an increase of \$425,785. Best portion of this loss was caused by the following 10 fires, which caused the loss to exceed that of the previous year. They are as follows:

3 fires in United States Army air station, Bolling Field, Anacostia, D. C-----	\$472, 125
5 fires that occurred during the night of Jan. 16, 1928, namely:	
Woolworth's 5 and 10 cent store, 923-925 Pennsylvania Avenue NW-----	\$39, 650
Commission house, 204-208 Tenth Street NW-----	6, 475
Feed store, 54-58 H Street NE-----	19, 000
Warehouse, 1530 Eckington Place NE-----	500
Saw and planing mill, rear 1319 W Street NW-----	23, 530
Kensington Apartments, 2501 Fourteenth Street NW-----	89, 155
Johnson & Wimsatt's lumber yard, Water Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets SW-----	23, 000
Johnson & Wimsatt's lumber yard, Water Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets SW-----	126, 272
Loss for the above 10 fires-----	710, 552
Loss for the remaining 3,694 alarms of fire-----	390, 612

Total loss for the fiscal year----- 1, 101, 164

If the loss for the three fires that occurred in United States Army air station, which is located on a military reservation, is deducted from the District of Columbia losses, it will give a loss for the District of

\$629,039, which is \$46,340 less than the preceding year, which was \$675,399.

During the year the District of Columbia fire department responded to 26 fires at near-by points in Maryland and Virginia and rendered all aid possible to the local department in extinguishing these fires and protecting surrounding property.

*Principal causes of fires*

Automobiles, back-firing, electric wires short-circuiting, gasoline leaking, gasoline fumes igniting, etc.	582
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning	511
Chimneys caught on fire, defective, overheated	286
Electric wires and electric appliances	140
Fuel-oil burners	50
Matches, carelessness with, children playing with	191
Smoking, careless	447
Sparks	104
Stoves, furnaces, and heating plants, 37; gas and gasoline stoves, 8; kerosene stoves, 37	82

**FALSE ALARMS**

During the year 300 false alarms were received, a decrease of 79 as compared with the preceding year. Members of the fire marshal's office and the police department made a thorough investigation in each case, but in no case could sufficient evidence be obtained to warrant making any arrests.

**INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES**

During the year there were 24 fires of suspicious nature and 11 undoubtedly of incendiary origin. During the night of January 16, 1928, five fires occurred which necessitated the sounding of additional alarms of fire. John J. Fisher, white, age 34 years, was arrested in connection with the starting of these fires. He was tried on May 4, 1928, in criminal court and was committed to St. Elizabeths Hospital for the Insane as a pyromaniac.

There were several other instances where persons were held by the police for investigation; they were tried in court and held for the action of the grand jury. At present there are two such cases pending.

All cases were thoroughly investigated by this office with the aid of the police department.

**PROSECUTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF FIRE-PREVENTION REGULATIONS**

During the year there were 12 cases in which warrants were obtained for violation of the fire-prevention regulations. In nine cases the persons either forfeited collateral or were fined in court. In the other three cases personal bonds were taken, they having complied with the notice served by the inspectors from this office.

**FOURTH OF JULY FIRES (1927)**

There were eight fires caused by fireworks during the Fourth of July celebration of this year (1927). In each case the damage done

was slight. This is an increase of five as compared with the preceding year.

#### INFLAMMABLE OILS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES

During the fiscal year 1,130 applications to handle kerosene were received and acted upon by this office.

There were installed and put into operation 657 oil-burning plants, making a total of 3,695 plants of this character now in the District of Columbia. In addition to these, there are now pending about 148 applications for the installation of oil-burning plants.

During the fiscal year 461 gasoline tanks were installed in the District of Columbia. Before these installations were made, as was also the case with the oil-burning plants, careful inspections were made by inspectors of this office to see that the regulations would be complied with, and final inspections were made after the installations were in. At the end of the fiscal year there were in operation in the District of Columbia 471 gasoline service stations.

Sixty-six applications for license to handle ammunition for small arms other than cartridges for pistols were approved by this office.

#### INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections made during the year by the corps of inspectors connected with the fire marshal's office was 64,205; of this number, 1,806 were complaints; 5,800 notices were served to remedy conditions creating fire hazards.

In addition to the above inspections, 133,891 inspections were made of apartment houses, hotels, asylums, private and public schools, etc., by firemen connected with the various fire stations.

All motion-picture theaters and open-air motion-picture parks in the District of Columbia were inspected to see that all fire appliances were in proper working order prior to issuance of annual licenses. Each motion-picture theater and open-air motion-picture park, in addition to the foregoing inspections, was inspected by members of the fire marshal's office at least once each week while the theater or park was open to the public. All told, there were 53 motion-picture theaters and motion-picture parks in operation during the year. In addition to these, there were in operation 14 legitimate theaters.

As in former years a uniformed member of the fire department was detailed for duty at each performance in the "legitimate theaters." All scenery arriving in the District for use in any of them was tested as to fireproof qualities.

In many halls and places of public assembly where entertainments were held one or more uniformed firemen were in attendance during each entertainment, and it was seen by members of this office that all scenery and decorations of a combustible nature needed in connection with these gatherings were treated with a fireproof solution.

#### MOTION-PICTURE OPERATORS

During the year 47 persons were examined in this office who applied for permits to operate motion-picture machines.

## MOTION-PICTURE FILM EXCHANGES

An inspector of this office detailed especially for the inspection of film exchanges makes a test once each week of the sprinkler system in all film exchanges in the District, and at least three times each week he makes a thorough inspection of all the exchanges, including several Government motion-picture laboratories and film-storage rooms.

## CONCLUSION

In closing this report permit me to express my appreciation for the cooperation given me during the year by members of the fire marshal's office and of the various fire stations who assisted in the work of inspecting and reducing fire hazards.

L. B. SEIB, *Fire Marshal.*

### *Number of alarms responded to by companies*

	First alarm	Second alarm	Third alarm	Fourth alarm	Fifth alarm	Special alarm	Local alarm	Pumping time, engine and wagon			Hose laid	Hose bursted	Ladders raised	Hand	Wagon	Fires extinguished by chemicals	Hand pump used
								H.	M.	Ft.							
Engine companies:																	
No. 1.	264	11	3	1				109	69	55	52, 950		140	23	75	5	4
No. 2.	250	11	1					69	70	40	25, 750	250	164	15	78	1	2
No. 3.	245	9		1		1		60	67	20	53, 200	450		6	42	2	9
No. 4.	183	7	1	1	1	1		41	78	50	25, 050	400	80	19	42	10	10
No. 5.	112		2	1	3			65	55	40	30, 650	100	276	15	36	8	1
No. 6.	298	4	3					46	54	30	24, 400	100	136	12	26		8
No. 7.	333	2	3	1				83	77		30, 050	300	308	5	130	6	21
No. 8.	250	4	1	1	1			52	60		29, 000	200	80	36	20	28	3
No. 9.	279	2	3	1	1			119	49	25	38, 300	250	328	17	115	7	4
No. 10.	237	3	3	2	1			90	59	30	36, 900	550	120	15	54	4	6
No. 11.	248	3	1		1	35		135	34	40	27, 400	100		19	62	1	1
No. 12.	244	6	3					70	50		28, 700	200	104	16	48		3
No. 13.	127	3	1	1	1			23	40		26, 850	150	10	20	22	12	9
No. 14.	268	4	2					48	76		30, 150	150	412	12	72		3
No. 15.	84			1				46	37		18, 850	50	30	18	5		6
No. 16.	218	3	4		1			28	62		25, 200	200	100	6	9		2
No. 17.	73			2	2			44	37		20, 350	250	112	6	9	5	6
No. 18.	212	1	1	1	1			56	55		29, 300	50	120	10	26	4	6
No. 19.	111			1	2			45	42	40	20, 300	350	69	3	7	3	3
No. 20.	49	1						100	7	45	8, 250		12	8	13	1	2
No. 21.	201	2		2				77	28	50	25, 550	50	52	16	50	15	11
No. 22.	70			3				105	22		36, 850	250	12	22	44		4
No. 23.	175		5	1				57	48	10	36, 250	150	82	43	42	15	11
No. 24.	157	2	1		2	1		83	39	20	21, 500	200	92	43	32	3	3
No. 25.	36				1			54	21	30	13, 000		52	6	7	3	3
No. 26.	71		1					49	22	30	16, 850	50	160	14	6	3	3
No. 27.	49							58	30	40	20, 600	150	74	9	14	5	5
No. 28.	62	2	1	1	2			72	29		21, 900	150	80	13	24	2	2
No. 29.	32	1			2	1		31	17		12, 300		180	2	12	4	8
Truck companies:																	
No. 1.	162	2	1		1	1		34					2, 031				
No. 2.	226	4		1	1	1		91					3, 413	15		6	
No. 3.	208	4	1	1	1	1		48					2, 851	6		2	
No. 4.	337	7	1					84					3, 584	5			
No. 5.	38		1	1	1			25					1, 360	2		2	
No. 6.	184	2						66					2, 175	8		1	
No. 7.	149			1	1	1		49					1, 654	8		6	
No. 8.	38							11					430	1		1	
No. 9.	109	1	1					43					909	2			
No. 10.	130	2	2	2				16					2, 233	27		1	11
No. 11.	42				1			32					1, 056	4	5		
No. 12.	35							37					317	3	1	1	
No. 13.	156	4	2	1	1	1		45					1, 565	28		8	
No. 14.	27	1	1		1	1		17					425	2			
Fire boat No. 1.		5						9	41	20	1, 800						
Rescue squad No. 1.	279							5	187					2			

*Causes for which alarms were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928*

Acetylene torch ignited insulation	1
Alarms, false	300
Alarms for causes other than fires:	
Airplane fell into river	2
Ammonia escaping	26
Automobiles	
Overturned	1
Struck man	1
In creek	1
Boats adrift	3
Boats sunk in river	2
Boilers (hot-water)	9
Boilers (steam)	4
Boy injured by fall from fence	1
Boy lost	1
Boy in tree	1
Cave in of earth killed man	3
Chimney heated wall of adjoining house	1
Collisions	
Automobiles	1
Automobile with fire apparatus	1
Automobile with street car	1
Automobile with steam shovel	1
Locomotives	1
Compressor (air), explosion of	1
Cornice on roof loose	1
Deaths (causes unknown)	9
Drownings (see also "Suicides")	4
Electric bell (sprinkler), accidental	1
Electric-light pole broken	1
Electric wire down	3
Electrocution of man by live wire	1
Elevator jammed	3
Fire gongs, accidental sounding of	5
Gas escaping from street lamp	4
Gas (coal, carbon monoxide, or illuminating), accidental asphyxiations	
Illuminating	67
Carbon monoxide	7
Coal	2
Gas escaping in kitchen	1
Gasoline torch mistaken for fire	1
Heating plants	
Hot water, exploded	1
Steam, water boiling out	2
Steam, flooded	1
Horse down on car track	1
Horse in ditch	1
Horse in pit	1
Horse over seawall	1
Illness	
Convulsions	1
Epileptic or other fits	4
Heart disease	1
Paralysis	2
Loss of consciousness	2
Pneumonia	1
Lumber fell on man in ditch	1
Machinery fell on man	1
Man fell on rocks in canal	1
Man fell in river	1
Manhole cover blew off	1
Noise mistaken for fire	1
People locked in buildings, vaults, or elevators	4

## Alarms for causes other than fires—Continued.

People locked out of buildings	11
Pipes—	
Steam, bursted	2
Steam, scalded man	1
Water, bursted	7
Plow of street car wedged in slot	1
Policeman fell through awning	1
Radiators flooded	1
Radiator leaking	1
Reflection of light mistaken for fire	14
Rescue squad called unnecessarily	1
Roof collapsed	1
Smoke, only	103
Smoke, odor of	1
Sparks from incinerator	40
Sprinkler head frozen	1
Sprinkler pipe frozen	1
Steam escaping	22
Storm damage—	
Buildings	12
Trees	6
Street cars—	
Killed man	1
Man under	1
Struck woman	1
Suicides—	
By drowning	2
By hanging	5
By illuminating gas	22
By poison	1
Suicides, attempted—	
With ether	1
By hanging	2
With illuminating gas	9
Leap from bridge	1
By poison	2
Sulphur candles, fumes from	1
Valve (high-pressure water main) blew off	1
Wall of building collapsed	4
Ashes (hot) thrown or fell on combustibles	25
Asphaltum, can of, on gas stove	1
Automobiles :	
Alcohol in radiator boiling over	1
Acetylene torch	1
Back-firing	167
Backed over fire on dump	1
Brake bands overheated	14
Burlap on engine caught fire	1
Carburetor flooded	5
Carburetor leaking	19
Children playing with fire	1
Children playing with matches	1
Collided with lamp post	1
Collision between two automobiles	10
Electric wires short-circuited	257
Engine overheated	9
Exhaust pipe disconnected	1
Exhaust pipe ignited floor	1
Exhaust pipe overheated	2
Gasoline, cleaning with	3
Gasoline dropped on hot exhaust pipe	17
Gasoline exploded in crank case	1
Gasoline fumes ignited	5
Gasoline ignited from open flame	5
Gasoline leaking and ignited	2
Gasoline line broke	11

## Automobiles—Continued.

Gasoline, can of, overturned	3
Gasoline spilled	1
Gasoline torch—burning off paint	1
Grease on brake drum ignited	1
Grease on engine	1
Heater ignited floor	3
Kerosene-oil lamp caught fire	1
Kerosene-oil lamp upset	1
Kerosene-oil lantern left burning in car	1
Lining on brake bands ignited	1
Open flame, looking in gasoline tank with	2
Pilot light ignited car	1
Pipe in vacuum tank leaking	2
Plug blew out of water jacket in cylinder	1
Rags dropped on exhaust pipe	12
Rags on engine	3
Smoking, careless	5
Spark ignited body	1
Tank caught fire while being soldered	1
Unknown origin	4
Bonfire	2
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash	512
Burlap bag under wheel of street car	1
Candle, boy playing with	2
Candle, careless use	1
Candle (sulphur), fumigating with	12
Candle, woman carrying, ignited drapery	1
Careless use with fire	8
Catalypt cylinder exploded	1
Chaff from coffee roaster ignited	2
Chemical upset on stove	1
Children playing with fire	23
Chimney, defective	38
Chimney, overheated	6
Chimney, rope on top	1
Chimney, soot in	244
Clothes boiled dry on stove	2
Coil in starting box of elevator burned out	1
Collodion, bottle of, in sun, exploded	1
Coloring Easter eggs with flammable liquid	1
Conduit rail in street-car track short-circuited	1
Electric-light bulb ignited draperies	1
Electric breaker box in elevator short-circuited	1
Electric cable short-circuited	4
Electric extension cord short-circuited	3
Electric floor plug ignited oily rag	1
Electric floor plug short-circuited	4
Electric grill, leather shoes on	1
Electric heater placed in closet while hot	1
Electric iron, current left on	23
Electric lights on Christmas tree short-circuited	1
Electric massage iron fell in basket of clothes	1
Electric motor short-circuited	7
Electric motor in refrigerator short-circuited	1
Electric slot rail short-circuited	1
Electric stove, current left on	1
Electric train short-circuited	2
Electric wire connected to toaster, short-circuited	1
Electric wires in conduit short-circuited	1
Electric wire in controller box short-circuited	1
Electric wires in elevator short-circuited	4
Electric wire fell from fastening and short-circuited	2
Electric wire in fixture short-circuited	1
Electric wire in Frigidaire short-circuited	1
Electric wire in gasoline pump short-circuited	1

Electric wires in houses and shops short-circuited	22
Electric wire on heater short-circuited	1
Electric wire in manhole short-circuited	1
Electric wire on pole short-circuited	20
Electric wire in sign short-circuited	2
Electric wire in sterilizer oven caught fire	1
Electric wire in street car short-circuited	27
Electric wire in tabulating machine short-circuited	1
Electric wire in transformer box short-circuited	1
Electric wire in tree short-circuited	1
Embers smoldering	3
Film in projection machine ignited	5
Fire in can mistaken for house afire	1
Fireworks	11
Flare (airplane) boys set on fire	1
Foodstuff or grease burning on stove	40
Friction-ignited leather dust	1
Fuse blew out, wire overloaded	2
Gas blazing from fixture without tip	1
Gas escaping and exploded when match was struck	1
Gas leaking and ignited	19
Gas blowtorch ignited combustibles	1
Gas iron placed in closet while hot	1
Gas iron overheated	1
Gas jet, combustibles too close	5
Gas mantle dropped on tablecloth	1
Gasoline, careless with	1
Gasoline, cleaning with	33
Gasoline fumes ignited	12
Gasoline ignited from open flame	4
Gasoline spilled on ground, ignited	1
Gasoline stove exploded	1
Gasoline tank leaking	1
Grass burning, ignited sheds	1
Grass burning, ignited telegraph pole	1
Grease in grease stack ignited	3
Grease on stove ignited	2
Heating plants:	
Hot air, hot water, steam—	
Back draft	1
Combustibles too close	6
Defective heater (1); defective fireplace (13)	14
Defective installation	4
Drum of one-pipe furnace, dust in	4
Hot-air pipe overheated	2
Hot-air register, accumulation of lint in	1
Overheated	10
Steam pipe ignited dust	1
Trash fell to floor	1
Trash burning in fireplace	2
Oil burners—	
Accumulation of oil fumes	2
Accumulation of oil in pit	9
Burner dirty and smoking	2
Clogged with soot (supposed)	1
Drip pan failed to work	2
Electric motor overheated	1
Explosion of gas burner	1
Feed line broken	1
Ignition failed to work	2
Improper adjustment	1
Incomplete combustion	2
Motor overheated	1
Oil failed to vaporize	1
Oil leaking	3
Pilot light went out	13

## Heating plants—Continued.

## Oil burners—Continued.

Soot in chimney ignited	2
Stack overheated	1
Trip failed to work	5
Smoke pipes	
Defective	5
Extended through woodwork	3
Hole left open	4
Inflammable material too close	2
Overheated	11
Soot in	1
Too close to woodwork	12
Stoves (coal), defective installation; overheated; too close to combustibles	21
Hot-air belt fell in a pan of oil	1
Hot coals fell in trash	1
Incendiary fires	13
Incinerator, paper in cage burning	1
Incinerator, burning trash projecting from	1
Insulation burning off wires	2
Kerosene oil spilled or leaking	5
Kerosene oil exploded	1
Kerosene oil, kindling fire with	4
Kite with steel frame struck electric wire which short-circuited; kite fell in dry grass and ignited grass	1
Lace curtain ignited when blown against gas jet	1
Lamp (kerosene) dropped to floor	1
Lamp (kerosene) exploded	4
Lamp (kerosene) overturned	4
Lamp (kerosene) too close to combustibles	3
Lamp (kerosene) thrown while burning	1
Lamp-post broken, gas ignited	2
Lightning	1
Matches :	
Careless with	89
Children playing with	92
In bird's nest and became ignited	1
Rats or mice with matches	9
Mischiefous fire	6
Oil fumes (kerosene) ignited	1
Paint burning off gas range	1
Paint ignited while being heated on stove	2
Paper meat wrapper afire carried by dog	1
Poker (hot) fell on pile of wood	1
Poker (hot) hung against woodwork	2
Radio short-circuited	1
Refrigerator belt smoking from friction	1
Rekindling of old fire	2
Register (hot air) ignited table	1
Salamander ignited wooden forms	2
Sawmill ignited sawdust	1
Smoking, careless	449
Smoking, careless (supposed)	1
Smoke-pipe hole open and mantle built against it	1
Soldering iron ignited bench	1
Sparks from burning trash ignited bird's nest on roof	1
Sparks fell on combustibles	103
Spontaneous combustion	33
Static electricity	4
Stove (gas), asphaltum burning off	1
Stoves (gas), gas escaping; overheated; too close to combustibles; exploded	10
Stoves (gasoline), caught fire	2
Stoves (kerosene), caught fire; combustibles too close; exploded; smoking; overheated	37

Suspicious fires-----	31
Tar pot boiling over-----	8
Thawing frozen water pipes-----	1
Tinner's pot ignited trash-----	2
Transformer overheated-----	1
Trash burning ignited shed-----	2
Trash burning ignited two automobiles-----	1
Tree, fire built in-----	2
Two alarms for same fire-----	9
Unknown origin-----	14
Varnish-removing liquid, can of, exploded; fumes ignited-----	2
 Total-----	 3,678
Fires outside of the District of Columbia-----	26
 Grand total-----	 3,704

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